Claims

[c1] WE CLAIM:

1.A sheetform insulating bag comprising:

a plurality of material layers attached to one another along a substantial portion of an outer periphery of each of said material layers in a manner forming an envelope having an opening and a fluid containment region; and

a plurality of inner seams selectively attaching specific adjacent material layers to one another at pre-determined locations throughout said plurality of material layers in a manner forming a plurality of individual baffle chambers within said plurality of material layers.

[c2] 2.An insulating bag according to Claim 1, wherein said envelope is inflatable, and further comprising an inflation valve attached to said envelope and in selective fluid communication therewith.

[c3] 3.An insulating bag according to Claim 1, wherein multiple ones of a plurality of surfaces of said plurality of material layers are metallized at selected locations.

[c4] 4.An insulating bag according to Claim 3, wherein each of said plurality of metallized layers comprise a metal stripe attached to and extending along one of said plurality of surfaces of said plurality of material layers.

[c5] 5.An insulating bag according to Claim 4, wherein each said metal stripe extends along and is attached to a surface of said plurality of material layers formed within a separate one of said plurality of baffle chambers.

[c6] 6.An insulating bag according to Claim 5, wherein a pair of said metal stripes extend along and are attached to a surface of said plurality of material layers formed within at least one of said plurality of baffle chambers.

[c7] 7.An insulating bag according to Claim 6, and further comprising an inflation valve attached to said envelope and in selective fluid communication with said plurality of individual baffle chambers.

[c8] 8.An inflatable insulating panel comprising:

a pair of sheetform outer layers attached to one another about their respective

outer peripheries in a manner defining an inflatable bag;
a plurality of intermediate sheetform layers received within said inflatable bag and laterally extending between said pair of sheetform outer layers; and
an array of alternating seams of attachment joining adjacent sheetform outer and intermediate layers in a manner forming an interconnected web that upon inflation of said inflatable bag expands to form a plurality of individual baffle chambers.

[c9] 9.An insulating panel according to Claim 8, and further comprising an inflation valve attached to said inflatable bag and in selective fluid communication with said interconnected web.

[c10] 10.An insulating panel according to Claim 9, and further comprising a plurality of metal stripes individually received upon and attached to a plurality of surfaces of said intermediate sheetform layers.

[c11] 11.An insulating panel according to Claim 10, wherein said plurality of metal stripes comprise a metal stripe array in substantial parallel relation to said array of alternating seams of attachment.

[c12] 12.An insulating panel according to Claim 11, wherein said metal stripe array is in substantial registration with said interconnected web, such that upon the expansion thereof, at least one of said plurality of metal stripes is located within each of said plurality of individual baffle members.

[c13] 13.In a flexible liner having a pair of opposed inner walls and an attachment seam joining together a pair of respective edges of said pair of opposed inner walls in a manner defining an interior fluid containment space, and further comprising:
at least one unsealed interval along said attachment seam such that said pair of respective edges abut one-another in unsealed relation defining a weepage opening.

[c14] 14.A flexible liner according to Claim 13, wherein said pair of opposed inner walls each comprise a sheetform material layer, and wherein said pair of respective edges defining said weepage opening abut one-another in a manner

limiting adverse thermal losses.

[c15] 15.A method of making an inflatable insulating panel comprising:
providing a plurality of sheetform layers;
assembling said plurality of sheetform layers in a vertically overlying manner;
forming an array of alternating seams of attachment joining adjacent sheetform layers; and
sealing said vertically assembled plurality of sheetform layers about their respective outer peripheries forming an inflatable panel,
whereby, upon inflation said array of alternating seams of attachment forms a plurality of individual baffle chambers.

[c16] 16.A method as recited in Claim 15, wherein said sheetform layers are of a heat-sealable material and said forming and sealing steps use heat.

[c17] 17.A method as recited in Claim 16, wherein said forming and sealing steps occur simultaneously.

[c18] 18.A method as recited in Claim 17, wherein said forming and sealing steps comprise pressing a heated tool against said vertically assembled plurality of sheetform layers.

[c19] 19.A method of making an inflatable insulating panel comprising the steps of:
providing a pair of sheetform outer layers and a plurality of intermediate sheetform layers, said intermediate sheetform layers having an array of metal stripes formed on at least one surface of each said intermediate sheetform layer;
assembling said plurality of intermediate sheetform layers in a vertically overlying manner, with said arrays of metal stripes on vertically adjacent sheetform layers parallel to and laterally offset from one another;
receiving said vertically assembled plurality of intermediate layers between said pair of sheetform outer layers;
forming an array of alternating seams of attachment joining adjacent intermediate layers and adjacent outer and intermediate layers; and
sealing together said pair of sheetform outer layers about their respective outer

peripheries forming an inflatable panel,
whereby, upon inflation of said inflatable panel said array of alternating seams of attachment forms a plurality of individual baffle chambers.

[c20] 20.The method of Claim 19, including the additional step of sealing said vertically assembled plurality of intermediate layers about their respective outer peripheries.

[c21] 21.The method of Claim 20, wherein said sealing of said pair of sheetform outer layers and said sealing of said vertically assembled plurality of intermediate layers occurs in a single step.

[c22] 22.The method of Claim 21, wherein said sealing step comprises forming a single peripheral seal joining said pair of sheetform outer layers and said vertically assembled plurality of intermediate sheetform layers.